

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Germany on 10/17/2003. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the DE 10349108.2 application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Goozner Reg. # 42593 on 10/23/2008.

In the Claims

3. In Claim 1 at line 4 the specific limitation "cooling and filling the pressure vessel while moving through a cooling bath," is amended to read "cooling and filling the pressure vessel while said pressure vessel is moving through a cooling bath."

In Claim 22 at line 3 the specific limitation "cooling and filling while moving through a cooling bath the airbag gas generator" is amended to read "cooling and filling the airbag gas generator while said airbag gas generator is moving through a cooling bath."

In Claim 23 at line 7 the specific limitation "filling the pressure vessel while moving through the cooling bath" is amended to read "filling the pressure vessel while said pressure vessel is moving through the cooling bath."

In the Abstract

4. The abstract is replaced with the following: "A method for filling a pressure vessel, for example an airbag system, with a gas or gas mixture. The filling is accomplished by cooling a pressure vessel, filling said vessel with at least one type of gas at a temperature which is higher than the boiling point thereof and closing the cold vessel. A pressure is produced in the filled and closed vessel by heating said vessel at an ambient temperature."

Reasons for Changes

5. Claims 1, 22 and 23 were amended for clarity and to place the application in condition for allowance.

The abstract was amended to coincide with the guidelines governing the abstract MPEP 608.01(b).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1, 3-6, 9-17, 19, 20, 22 and 23 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The specific limitation of "cooling and filling the pressure vessel while said pressure vessel is moving through a cooling bath" in the combination as claimed in claim 1, "cooling and filling the airbag gas generator while said airbag gas generator is moving through a cooling bath" in the combination as claimed in claim 22, and "filling the pressure vessel while moving

through the cooling bath" is amended to read "filling the pressure vessel while said pressure vessel is moving through the cooling bath" in the combination as claimed in claim 23 are not anticipated or made obvious by the prior art of record in the examiner's opinion.

For example Kesten et al. (US PGPub 2008/0016884) discloses a method for high-pressure filling of a pressure vessel with a gas or gas mixture (Page 1, paragraph 2). In said method the pressure vessel is cooled and filled (Page 1, paragraph 9) with at least one gas at a temperature above the boiling temperature of the gas (Page 1, paragraph 2). Kesten also discloses closing the vessel in the cooled state and producing pressure in the filled and closed pressure vessel by warming (Page 1, paragraph 9). Kesten also discloses an internal tank pressure of 1000 to 1200 bar.

Bastian (US Patent 5,900,538) discloses manometric measurement of pressure.

However, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the specific limitations of "cooling and filling the pressure vessel while said pressure vessel is moving through a cooling bath" in the combination as claimed in claim 1, "cooling and filling the airbag gas generator while said airbag gas generator is moving through a cooling bath" in the combination as claimed in claim 22, and "filling the pressure vessel while moving through the cooling bath" is amended to read "filling the pressure vessel while said pressure vessel is moving through the cooling bath" in the combination as claimed in claim 23

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JASON K. NIESZ whose telephone number is (571)270-3920. The examiner can normally be reached on mon-fri 9-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Greg Huson can be reached on (571) 272-4887. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jason K Niesz
Examiner
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/Gregory L. Huson/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3751